

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Claims 1 to 4, 10 to 14 and 16 to 26 as presented with applicants' paper of June 18, 2008, are currently pending.

The Examiner rejected all pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in light of the teaching of *Dieing et al.* (EP 0 893 117) when taken in view of either the disclosure of *Yamada et al.* (US 6,936,241) or the disclosure of *Eteve et al.* (US 5,634,557).

It is respectfully noted that the disclosure of *Yamada et al.* does not constitute prior art applicable under the provisions of Section 103(a) as the earliest effective U.S. filing date of the application precedes that of the *Yamada et al.* patent. To the extent that the Examiner's rejection relied upon the disclosure of *Yamada et al.* it is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Also, with their paper of June 18, 2008, applicants have provided arguments why the teaching of *Dieing et al.* taken in view of the disclosure of *Eteve et al.* was not deemed to reasonably support a finding that applicants' invention as disclosed and claimed in the application was *prima facie* obvious at the time applicants made the invention. In particular, applicants pointed to certain technical particularities to show why the respective references could not be deemed to render the claimed subject matter unpatentable under Section 103(a). Those arguments, as well as applicants' preceding arguments contained in the paper dated September 17, 2007, are herewith incorporated by reference. Applicants respectfully reiterate their request that the rejection of Claims 1 to 4, 10 to 14 and 16 to 26 under Section 103(a) on the basis of the teaching of *Dieing et al.* when taken in view of the disclosure of *Eteve et al.* be withdrawn. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.